

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 CCO-00 OTPE-00

EB-07 FCC-01 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 H-02 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

----- 089921

R 281405Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1379

INFO /AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1616

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3805

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, MASS, MCAP, BEXP, SA, US

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC SATELLITE IDEA CONTINUES PROGRESS

REF: JIDDA 1063

1. DURING FEBRUARY MEETINGS OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, BRIEFING ON USEFULNESS OF SPECIAL DOMESTIC SATELLITE FOR SAUDI ARABIAN DEVELOPMENT WAS ARRANGED BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. DISCUSSIONS HAVE SINCE BEEN HELD WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS OMAR FAQIEH, WITH SPECIAL ROYAL ADVISOR KAMEL ADHAM, AND INTEREST HAS JUST BEEN WHOWN IN THE IDEA GY MINISTER OF DEFENSE SULTAN. THE LATTER HAS APPROACHED CHUSMTM IN DHAHRAN CONCERNING THE USE OF SUCH SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. CHUSMTM WAS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF CIVILIAN INTEREST IN THE
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SUBJECT AND HAS REPLIED THAT WHILE EVENTUALLY

AN IN-COUNTRY SATELLITE SYSTEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, MODA SHOULD TURN TO MORE CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

2. MEANWHILE, THE ARAB LEAGUE SATELLITE CONCEPT IS BEING STUDIED FURTHER AND A MEETING IS GOING FOWARD IN KUWAIT FOR THIS PURPOSE. ITS OUTCOME, ACCORDING TO FAQIEH, IS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT INsofar AS TAKING AN EARLY FIRM DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT.

3. FAQIEH HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE LONDON CONFERENCE ON USE OF SATELLITES IN MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS AND IS ONCE AGAIN PREPARING TO VISIT THE U.S. DURING A CALL ON HIM MAY 22 BY THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND UNDERSECRETARY'S ASSISTANT, RUTHERFORD POATS, HE EXPRESSED HIS FIRM INTENTION TO: (1) EXPLORE USE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO STAFF UP THE MINISTRY; (2) VISIT THE U.S. PROBABLY IN LATE JUNE FOR DISCUSSIONS ON FREQUENCY CONTROL PROBLEMS AMONG OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND (3) EXPLORE MORE FULLY THE SATELLITE FOR SAUDI ARABIA. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER POINT, HE WOULD WELCOME A BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON BY USG SOURCES ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE USE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE KINGDOM.

4. HE AGREED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY WHEN HE WAS COMING TO THE U.S. AND WHEN HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH A BRIEFING DURING HIS VISIT. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EARLIEST REPORT ON ARAB LEAGUE DISCUSSIONS IN KUWAIT AND ASSURANCES THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE PREPARED TO BRIEF THE DEPUTY MINISTER AND HIS PARTY DURING THE TOUR.
AKINS

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